



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **JANESVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH TRAVELING ACROSS STATE LINES TO SOUTH BELOIT TO ENGAGE IN A SEXUAL ACT WITH A MINOR**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

On the evening of Friday, March 12, 2004, **LESLIE LETTS**, 35 (DOB: 01/23/69), of 1834 Garden Drive, Janesville, Wisconsin, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on a federal charge that he traveled across state lines for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor. According to the criminal complaint filed in federal court in Rockford, Illinois, LETTS traveled from Janesville, Wisconsin, to South Beloit, Illinois, on March 12, 2004, in order to engage in a sexual act with a person LETTS believed to be 13 year old female he met on the internet. The criminal complaint charges LETTS used the internet to locate a 13 year old female's internet profile and began to exchange communications which were sexual in nature. Local police were contacted and an investigation took place. Internet communications continued between LETTS and law enforcement officers posing as the minor who were working on a task force set up to investigate and identify the activities of persons suspected of sexually exploiting or sexually abusing children.

LETTTS initial appearance was held on Saturday, March 13, 2004, before United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney at the U.S. Courthouse in Rockford, Illinois. LETTS is in federal custody pending a detention hearing which is scheduled on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. If convicted of the charge, LETTS faces a potential penalty of up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Chicago Federal Bureau of Investigation's Innocent Images Task Force, the Rockford Office of the FBI, the South Beloit, Illinois Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and the Naperville, Illinois Police Department. The Innocent Images Task Force is comprised of FBI Special Agents, Inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Investigators from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and Detectives from the Palos Heights, Illinois Police Department. Assistance was also provided by the Madison, Wisconsin United States Attorney's Office, the Milwaukee Division of the FBI, and the Janesville, Wisconsin Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Rockford Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to indictment by a federal grand jury and a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

\*This release has been corrected to note the participation of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department in this investigation.

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